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POLAND: Walesa Wins

Union leader Walesa won a major victory in the voting yesterday for the union's new presidium despite opposition from militants.

Walesa's aides described him as "very happy and enthusiastic" about the membership of the newly elected executive committee, most of whom are apparent supporters of Walesa. The three militants who ran against him for the chairmanship of the union failed to win seats on the presidium.

The election of 11 members of the 12-person body came after some angry shouting matches and heated procedural disputes in the National Commission earlier in the day. Despite his victory, the union leader will still have to contend with pressure from militants and restive local union chapters.

Walesa indicated in a conciliatory interview with the official Polish media that he wants to resume negotiations with the government as soon as possible. An ebullient Walesa left for Warsaw immediately after the elections, perhaps to begin laying the groundwork for talks.

The new Solidarity leadership is under pressure to make some gains in talks with the government because of threatened local protests over recent price increases and continuing food shortages. The government has offered to compensate consumers for the price increases but can provide no quick fixes for food shortages.

Central Committee To Meet

In the interview Walesa also sought to undercut criticism of the political planks of the union platform by asserting that his goal is to change Solidarity from what he admitted is a "social movement" into a genuine trade union. His cryptic reference to the need for some new legal organization to deal with other subjects raised at the congress--presumably non-trade union issues--will reinforce the suspicions of regime hardliners that Solidarity still has wider ambitions. The party has

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scheduled a Central Committee meeting on 14 and 15 October, almost certainly to set its strategy following the Solidarity congress. [REDACTED]

Soviet Pressure

Initial Soviet commentary at the conclusion of the Solidarity congress suggests Moscow will keep pressure on the Polish regime to act firmly against union radicals and resist union efforts to play a "political" role. A TASS dispatch yesterday described the new Solidarity program as "counterrevolutionary" and quoted charges by a Polish journal that the union has broken its agreement with the government. [REDACTED]

Moscow may be using the threat of reduced economic aid to put pressure on the Warsaw regime to act firmly. In turn, Polish authorities may use the Soviet threat to induce Solidarity to moderate its position. [REDACTED]

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Other Polish officials have reported since the Baybakov talks that the Soviets will continue their substantial aid to Warsaw next year, and Soviet Premier Tikhonov implied as much in recent remarks to the West Germans. Moreover, the Soviets have approached Western banks for \$1.5 to 2 billion in hard currency loans, some of which may be for Poland. [REDACTED]

The negotiations for 1982 trade have only just begun, and the Polish and Soviet positions can be expected to change as talks continue. Moscow will likely seek to prolong the talks and use the resulting uncertainty to its political advantage. [REDACTED]